

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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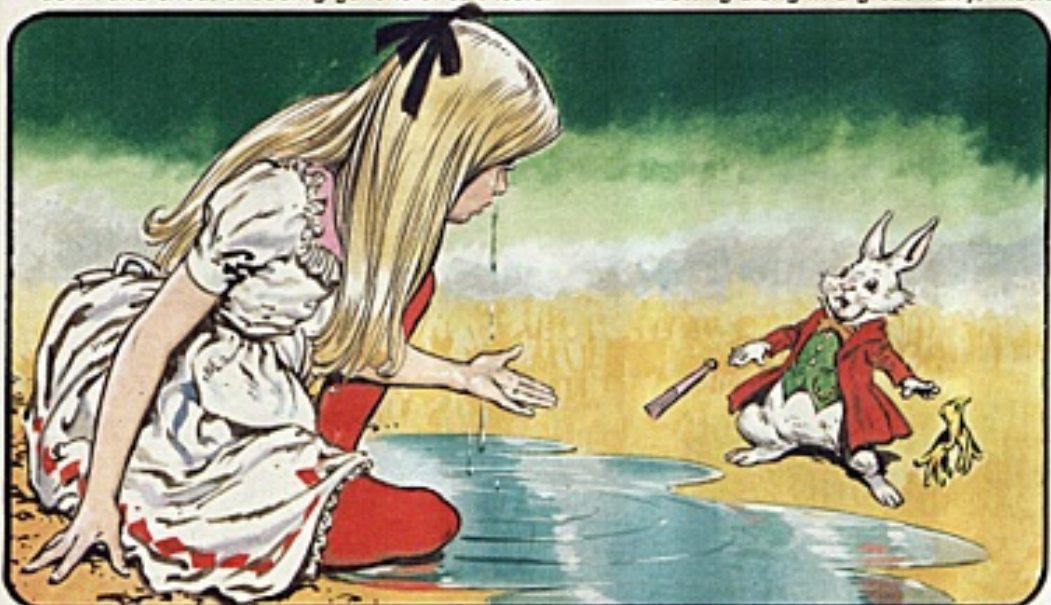
The Spinning Princess . .
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ALICE in WONDERLAND



1. Poor Alice! She had now grown too big to get through the tiny door into the garden, so she sat down and cried, shedding gallons of salt tears.

2. Soon there was a large pool all round her, several inches deep. Hearing a patter of feet she dried her eyes to see what was coming. It was the White Rabbit. He came trotting along in a great hurry, muttering to himself, "Oh, the Duchess, the Duchess!"



3. The White Rabbit was splendidly dressed, with a pair of gloves in one hand and a fan in the other. "If you please, sir—" Alice began to say in a timid voice. The Rabbit started violently and before Alice could say anything else he dropped the gloves and fan and scurried away into the darkness just as hard as he could go.



4. Alice took up gloves and, as the fan and the hall was very hot, she kept fanning herself. "Dear, dear," she said. "How queer it all is."



5. As she spoke she looked down at her hand and was surprised to see that she had put on one of the Rabbit's gloves. "I must have grown small," she said.



6. She was shrinking fast. The cause of it was the fan she was holding, so she dropped it hastily just in time to stop herself from shrinking away altogether. "That was a narrow escape," she said, in relief.



7. "Now for the garden," she went on. As she said these words her foot slipped and in another moment—splash! Alice was up to her chin in salt water, in the deep pool made by her own tears.

8. Then she heard something splashing about in the pool, and at first thought it must be a hippopotamus or a walrus, until she remembered how small she was. It was a mouse that had fallen in.



9. "Would it be of any use to speak to this mouse?" thought Alice. There was no harm in trying, so she began: "Mouse, do you know the way out of this pool? I'm tired of swimming around." The mouse winked a little eye, but said nothing.



10. Then Alice noticed that the pool was getting crowded with birds and animals that had fallen into it. There were a Duck, a Dodo, a Lory, an Eaglet and several other curious creatures. "It's no use swimming around," said Alice. "Let's get out."



11. Acting on Alice's advice, the whole party swam out of the salty pool to the shore, the birds with draggled feathers and the animals with their soaking-wet fur clinging close to them.

12. They were all dripping wet and cross and uncomfortable. At last the mouse, perched on the back of a tortoise, called out: "Sit down, I'll soon make you dry." (More next week.)

All Sorts of Winter Overcoats



To protect ourselves from the cold, we put on extra clothes in Winter—and so do many of the animals. These pages show you some of them in Winter coats and Summer coats, starting with **The Arctic Fox**, which has thick white fur in Winter, so it is hard to see in the snow.



In Summer, **The Stoat** has a dark brown coat, which changes to a much thicker white coat in the Winter. The white coloured fur is useful for keeping the stoat warm, and also enables it to creep over the snow and seize the animals which are its prey, without being seen.



The Mountain Hare, which can be seen in the high places in Scotland, changes its coat from grey brown in the Summer to grey white in the Winter. This is Nature's wonderful way of protecting the mountain hare from being seen by its enemies in the snow.



The Lynx, with its tufted ears, can be found in Europe and in South America. It likes to live in mountain regions, and when these parts become cold in Winter, it grows a thicker fur of greyish-white to keep warm. When Summer comes again, it sheds this thicker coat.





In woodland parts of Great Britain lives **The Roe Deer**, a gentle animal which wears a reddish coat in Summer. In the Winter the roe deer's coat grows much thicker and changes to a brown colour. The male deer also sheds his antlers in the Winter. They grow again in Summer.



The Shetland Pony is everyone's favourite and it is a sturdy little animal. In Winter it grows a much thicker coat and so can survive in cold weather that could kill other animals. As you can see, the Shetland pony also grows a longer mane and tail when Winter comes.



The Reindeer, with its lovely set of antlers, is found in the cold Arctic regions of the North and needs a thick coat in Winter to protect itself against the biting cold of the Arctic winds. Its Winter coat is much thicker on the neck and shoulders and lighter in colour.



You might think it strange that **The Chamois** has a Winter coat of much darker fur than the one it wears in Summer. The reason for this is that the chamois lives in the Swiss Alps and in the Winter it comes to a lower level of the mountains where it can be less easily seen.





BRER RABBIT

This week . . . Brer Rabbit and Brer Buzzard go farming.

BREER RABBIT was so cunning that he had managed to trick the other animals not once, but many times. Hardly anyone had managed to get the better of him. In the end, he got so big-headed and uppity, that he thought there was nobody who could get the better of him at all. He forgot that there is nobody so smart that someone else cannot out-wit him sometimes.

Now, in Brer Rabbit's time, the animals carried on just like people. They lived in houses and farmed the land and had tea-parties for their friends, when it was fine. Brer Rabbit dug his fields and planted his crops, just like all the others.

However, one year, Brer Rabbit and Brer Buzzard decided to go into partnership and dig their ground and sow their crops together. They both worked hard and it was a fine year for growing crops and when they began to grow, it looked as though there was going to be a really good harvest. Brer Buzzard was very pleased when he thought what a good return he would get for all the hard work he had put in.

Brer Rabbit was pleased, too. He looked at the fields and saw how much there was and he licked his lips greedily. "Enough to keep me and the family in luxury all the year round," he thought to himself. "It's a pity it has to be shared with Brer Buzzard."

Well, when the time came to divide up the crops which were ready, there seemed to be nothing to share. The crops had all gone and poor Brer Buzzard got nothing at all. Brer Rabbit seemed to be in a worse state than Brer Buzzard and he moaned and looked very sorry for himself, fearing that they had been tricked by the other animals and it was hard on him, for he had a big family to look after.

Brer Buzzard, he said nothing at all, but he thought and thought. Brer Rabbit and all the little rabbits didn't look a bit as if they had fallen on hard times. They were quite sleek and they looked very well fed. Brer Buzzard gave the whole business quite a lot of thought.

Then one day he saw Brer Rabbit going lickety split through the woods

and he smiled to himself, did Brer Buzzard.

"Brer Rabbit," he called. "Come and see what I've found."

Brer Rabbit stopped when he heard Brer Buzzard's voice. "What have you found, Brer Buzzard?" he asked. "Is it something important?"

"Important!" said Brer Buzzard. "Why it would make your eyes pop out of your head in amazement."

"Why, what is it, Brer Buzzard?" asked Brer Rabbit, who was beginning to feel mighty curious now.

"Well, you know how badly we did with our crops and how disappointed we were after all that hard work. Brer Rabbit," said Brer Buzzard. "It doesn't matter, Brer Rabbit, not one bit. I've found something far more valuable than crops."

Brer Rabbit could hardly wait to hear what Brer Buzzard was going to say next. "Tell me what it is, Brer Buzzard. Tell me what it is," he said, almost dancing up and down with curiosity.

Brer Buzzard leaned forward.

"It's a gold-mine, Brer Rabbit," he said. "There's so much gold there, that we'll be rich."

"Where is this gold-mine, Brer Buzzard?" asked Brer Rabbit.

"I'll show you," replied Brer Buzzard. "You come with me."

Brer Rabbit was very anxious to start getting the gold at once, so off he went after Brer Buzzard. Very soon they came to the river. "It's just across the river, Brer Rabbit," said Brer Buzzard.

Brer Rabbit sat down and looked at the river. Then Brer Buzzard asked him if there was anything wrong and Brer Rabbit asked if he could think of a way of getting across the river without getting his feet wet, as wet feet were so bad for rabbits.

"Get on my back and I'll carry you across, if that's all that's the matter," replied Brer Buzzard. And with that, he squatted down on the grass and Brer Rabbit got on to his back. Then Brer Buzzard spread his big wings and up they flew into the air.

Looking down, Brer Rabbit wasn't at all sure that he liked flying. They were so high up and it was such a long way down, that he began to feel just a little bit dizzy. Just then, Brer Buzzard landed—right at the top of a very tall pine-tree, that was growing on an island in the very middle of the river.

Brer Rabbit looked down from the top of the pine tree and it was a long way down. He looked at the water all the way round and it looked very deep and very wet. Brer Rabbit grew more and more thoughtful. At last he said, "While we're having a rest here, Brer Buzzard, there's something I feel I must tell you. I have found a gold-mine myself, and as you have been such a good friend, I feel I really should share it with you. Let's go back to my gold-mine now and forget all about yours."

Brer Buzzard just sat there and laughed and Brer Rabbit saw he couldn't fool Brer Buzzard any longer. In the end, he confessed everything and told Brer Buzzard how he had dug up the crops and hidden them for himself when Brer Buzzard wasn't there. He promised that if Brer Buzzard would take him safely down to the ground again, he would divide up all the crops fairly, so that they both had their proper share. Then Brer Buzzard flew into the air again and took Brer Rabbit safely back to the ground.

Brer Rabbit staggered off to his house and brought Brer Buzzard his fair share of the crops at once, but he felt weak at the knees for months afterwards, every time he saw a bird flying overhead.

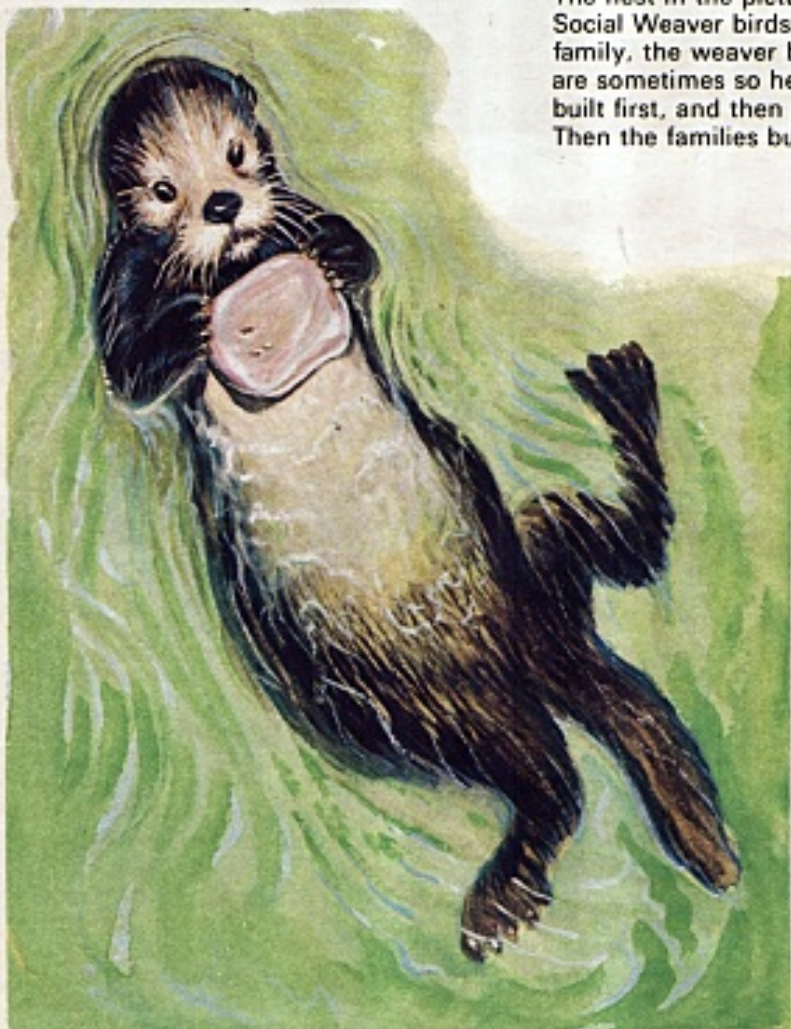
Another Brer Rabbit story next week.



Well, Fancy That!



The nest in the picture above is housing seventy to a hundred pairs of African Social Weaver birds. Unlike many birds who build nests which will take just one family, the weaver birds get together and build one large nest, and these nests are sometimes so heavy that the supporting tree branch collapses. The roof is built first, and then packed with grass; stems hanging down to stop enemies. Then the families burrow their way in and the nest becomes like a block of flats.



The active sea otter spends all of its life in the sea and it is very unusual for one to come ashore. Sometimes it dives to a depth of a hundred feet and hunts for crabs, snails and clams. Before coming to the surface, it picks up a stone. This is



placed on its chest and lifting the shellfish high over its head, the sea otter bangs it on the stone until it breaks. The sound of banging the hard shells on the stones can be heard quite a long way off.

FAMOUS NAMES

Interesting facts about people, places and things in our world.



Sargasso Sea. This is the name given to part of the North Atlantic Ocean, lying east of Florida. It is covered with great masses of seaweed. At one time, people thought that this sea was dangerous to ships, as the picture above suggests, but this is not so.



Loch Ness Monster. Many people say they have seen an unusual creature swimming in Loch Ness. Descriptions suggest that it is a long-necked marine animal called a plesiosaurus, thought to have died millions of years ago.



Swiss Guard. These men were part of a company of soldiers from Switzerland, who hired themselves out to different countries. The one shown is wearing the uniform of the guards and some are employed as guards to the Pope in The Vatican in Rome.



King Alfred and the cakes. It is said that Alfred was hunting in the forest and stopped at a cottage to rest. Deep in thought, he failed to see that some cakes, cooking over a fire, had burnt. He was scolded by the angry peasant.

This is a Memory Test. When you have read this story, turn to page 16 and answer the questions about it.

Signs of the Zodiac

SCORPIO

Scorpio is the birth sign for those of you who have birthdays between the 23rd October and the 22nd November.

Orion, the hunter, had fallen in love with Merope, daughter of Oeropion, the King of Chius. He went to the King and asked for his daughter's hand in marriage, but the King said that he could only marry his daughter if he succeeded in ridding their island of wild beasts.

Orion boasted to the Goddess Diana and the Goddess Latona, that he would kill every animal on the earth.

The Goddesses were very worried when they heard Orion's words, and to avoid him carrying out this terrible thing, they released a poisonous scorpion which stung him to death.

Jupiter raised the Scorpion to the heavens, and Orion too.

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The Spinning Princess



1. Polly was a simple country girl who made her living spinning and weaving in the little village of Nid-Nod. One day she rescued a tiny fairy who had fallen into a water pitcher and couldn't get out. The grateful fairy promised her one wish. "But do not make it a selfish one," she said.



2. Polly wished her spinning-wheel and loom to be enchanted so that she could make the most beautiful cloth in the world for her friends in the village. "They would love to wear pretty material, even though they are as poor as me," she said. And the fairy gladly granted her wish.



3. Soon, news of Polly's skill reached far and wide, even to the Royal Palace and the ears of the King's daughter, the Princess Anna. "We shall go and look at this girl's work," she told her Ladies. "And if it is as good as they say, we will buy some for our Court dresses."



4. So the Princess and her Attendants visited Nid-Nod, where they saw all the villagers dressed splendidly. "How absurd that these humble persons should dress like Lords and Ladies," sneered the Princess. "This girl should stop wasting her time on them and work only for the Court."



5. Polly was very excited by the thought of going to live at the Palace. She made some cloth for a dress suitable to her new position, and so beautiful did she look that Prince Ivor, the King's son, fell in love with her on sight, and Polly fell in love with him too.



6. That afternoon she was put to work, but because she was thinking of the Prince, she didn't notice that the thread she spun was dull and coarse and ugly. "What a fraud," cried the Court Ladies. "You'll have to improve, girl," cried the haughty Princess.



7. But Polly knew she wouldn't improve, because she had remembered that her gift had been given to her to make the people of Nid-Nod happy, not to clothe the proud ladies of the Royal Court. So sadly, because she was leaving Prince Ivor behind, she began her journey home.



8. She hadn't gone far, when up galloped Prince Ivor. "Stay and marry me," he said. Happily, Polly agreed. And from that day, she was known as the Spinning Princess.



Beautiful Paintings

This week's Beautiful Painting is by Ferdinand G. Waldmueller, and is called "Evening Landscape with Goats". The rosy colour in the sky shows us that the sun is setting and it will not be long before it is dark. The job of the young boy in the picture is to round up the goats and lead them back to the farm where

they will sleep. He has collected quite a few goats and is calling to some more that have been sitting by a stream—two have staggered to their feet, but the third refuses to move. Why not cut out this attractive picture and add it to your collection?

Queen Mary the Second

Queen Mary the Second married a Dutchman called William, Prince of Orange. When the revolution of 1677 drove her father King James the Second from the throne of England, Mary and William became joint sovereigns. Six years after her coronation, Mary died, leaving her husband, King William the Third, to rule by himself.

Join the dots from 1 to 29 in the puzzle below to draw a special head-dress of that period called a Fontange. To draw a lady's shoe of that time, join the dots from 1 to 30 in the puzzle at the far side of this page.





The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

it, Stephanie saw that he was dressed in his oldest clothes.

"How nice to see you, Stephanie," said Nigel. "Come in." But Stephanie had the oddest feeling that Nigel really didn't want her to come in at all. It was nothing to the feeling she got when she went into Nigel's drawing-room. The floor was simply covered with bits of paper, all with the oddest dots and numbers on them. Besides that, there were tools and bits of wood all over the place. "Whatever is this?" gasped Stephanie.

"Er-well-er-you-see-I'm-trying-to-make-an-aeroplane," said Nigel, all in a rush. "But I didn't want you to know until I'd got it finished, because I thought you'd laugh at me. It's an awfully big job for one person and I haven't actually got very far with it."

"It's a big job for one, but it wouldn't be nearly such a big job for four," said

Stephanie. "There's a big barn right near where cousin Winifred lives in the country, and you know how her boy-friend, Bertie, loves tinkering about with mechanical things. If we took this lot down there, Winifred and Bertie would just love to help."

Nigel looked delighted with this idea, and before long they were speeding off to the country where Winifred lived.

Winifred and Bertie were thrilled to be asked to help make an aeroplane.

"Why the barn is the very place," squeaked Winifred.

"Let's start right away," said Bertie. "I've never tried to build an aeroplane before but with all of us, it shouldn't be too difficult."

They unpacked all the things Nigel had brought and then they set to work.

There was a big pot of glue bubbling away on a small fire and Stephanie privately thought it smelled disgusting, but there was a kettle which bubbled away merrily on the fire, too, and Stephanie who didn't think she was much use at making aeroplanes, decided to become chief tea-maker.

As they were only able to work on the aeroplane in their spare time, it was several weeks before it was anywhere near being finished, but then even Stephanie began to get excited about it all. Suddenly, instead of being just a lot of bits of wood and canvas and wheels and nails, it began to look just like a real aeroplane. As for Nigel, he was so thrilled he could hardly hammer in the last of the nails.

See what happens next week.

STEPHANIE, the town mouse, hadn't seen much of her boy-friend Nigel, just lately, so she dressed in her best clothes and went to see him. She rang the doorbell—and when Nigel answered

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Here are some questions about the story "Signs of the Zodiac" on page 10. Test your memory by seeing how many you can answer before checking them.

1. Who was Merope's father?
2. What task did he set for Orion?
3. How did the Goddesses manage to prevent Orion from carrying out his task?



The Drummer Boy



1. Once there was a Drummer Boy who played each morning as he led the King's soldiers across the Palace courtyard. The King's daughter, Princess Linda, would always wave to him, and this made the Drummer Boy very happy.

2. Some of the soldiers grew jealous of the notice the Princess took of the little Drummer Boy. "She doesn't wave to you," they said. "She loves to see us ride by in our grand uniforms on our splendid horses."



3. The little Drummer Boy felt sure they must be right. "Why should a real Princess want to listen to my drum?" he thought. And he was so unhappy that he couldn't bear to stay at the Palace, so that evening he ran away.

4. At night he slept in haystacks, and during the day he drummed his way through villages and towns. But in his heart he wanted to be back playing for the Princess, and he grew sadder and sadder at being all alone.



5. Meanwhile the Princess had fallen ill and nobody knew why, until her old Nurse said, "She's pining for that Drummer Boy. She loved to listen to his drum." "Find the Drummer Boy," cried the King to his messengers.



6. The messengers searched far and wide, and one of them came upon the Drummer Boy sitting by a forest pool, thinking of the happy days at the Palace. "Come on, Drummer Boy," cried the messenger. "You're wanted at the Palace."



7. All was silent in the Princess's chamber where the Princess was lying pale and still. Suddenly there came the distant sound of a drum. "The dear Drummer Boy," cried the Princess, jumping from her bed in great excitement.



8. She waved to the Drummer Boy in the courtyard below, and he felt so proud when he saw the Princess waving to him that he marched very proudly and beat his drum even louder, knowing he was loved and needed after all.



The **WISE OLD OWL**

Knows all the answers

The Wise Old Owl is here again to answer many interesting questions which you have asked.



1. Why do mountain-climbers wear goggles?

"They wear them to protect their eyes. In the Winter, high mountain peaks are places where very strong winds blow, causing blizzards of snow and a climber without goggles would find it difficult to keep his eyes open to see where he was going. In the Summer, the glare of the sun is very powerful at great heights, and reflects off the snow."



2. What is a gargoyle?

"Gargoyles are often seen on old buildings, such as palaces and cathedrals. They are really water-spouts to carry rain water off the roofs and send it to the ground well clear of the walls. Many were carved in the shape of strange animals."



3. What are lake dwellings?

"These are houses, usually made of wood, which are built on platforms several feet above the level of the water of rivers or lakes. They can be seen in South America and in parts of Asia. The people who live in them have to use boats."



4. Is it true that giraffes do not like rain?

"Yes. These tall, graceful animals will almost always seek shelter under trees when there is a heavy rainstorm."



5. How far away is the horizon?

"It depends on how high our eyes are from the level of the sea. To this boy, the horizon would be just over 2 miles off."